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JPRS L/9943

27 August 1981

Worldwide Report

NARCOTICS AND DANGEROUS DRUGS

(FOUO 40/81)



FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

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BURMA

BRIEFS

MANDALAY OFFICIALS SEIZE HEROIN--Mandalay, 8 Jul--"Mandalay Division Drug Suppression Committee member Police Station Officer U Nyunt Shwe and members of Dawna Baw ward people's council U Maw and U Aung Thein and others yesterday arrested seven persons and seized over 10,000 kyat worth of heroin in their crackdown on heroin dealers." The seizures made were: 16 grams of heroin from Maung Myint Thein of No 8, Thushamma Zayat Tan; a penicillin bottle containing heroin and worth 300 kyat from Ma San San Aye, also of No 8, Thudhamma Zayat Tan; 20 penicillin bottles of heroin from the residence of U Tin Maung of Pyidawaye ward and from a guest--Maung Tun Naing--at that house; and 1 ounce of heroin from Ma Ar Yin, alias Ma Lan Ying, of Haymar Zala ward. Police Station No 8 has filed charges under the Narcotic Drugs Law against those arrested. [Summary] [Rangoon LOKTHA PYEITHU NEZIN in Burmese 11 Jul 81 p 5 BK]

OPIUM SMUGGLING GANG ARRESTED--Lashio, 8 Jul--On 30 June, Lashio Township people's council members, township police commander and police personnel, who were keeping a secret watch on the residence of Phaya Htan, alias U Tun Lu, stopped a jeep heading for Lashio and driven by a man who had left U Tun Lu's house. The man was questioned and on information supplied by him, "the combined raiding team searched the residences of U Tun Lu and his followers. Thirteen opium sellers and carriers in U Tun Lu's house were arrested. More raids were conducted on the houses within a radius of 100 yards from U Tun Lu's house. The raids uncovered 36 balls of raw opium from Ngo Twan's residence, 16 balls of raw opium from Xiao Jingmeng's house and 2 packets of opium sample from U Tun Lu's house. The total opium seizure was worth 107,520 kyat. A total of 110 persons connected with 45 opium and heroin cases were arrested between 1 January and 1 July 1981 in Lashio Township. A total of over 200,000 kyat worth of drugs were seized in the suppression campaign." [Summary] [Rangoon LOKTHA PYEITHU NEZIN in Burmese 15 Jul 81 p 5 BK]

RANGOON POLICE ARREST TWO--Rangoon, 14 Jul--Police personnel from the Rangoon Division Crime Prevention Division at 1800 yesterday arrested Kyaw Win of Nabekyu ward, Saingdan, Mandalay, after he was found carrying 25 grams of heroin at the gate of "C" Block in Theingyi Market. Police further uncovered 20 grams of heroin when Tin Win, who was accompanying Kyaw Win, provided the information that the heroin was hidden in a vacant lot on 25th Street, behind the Theingyi Market. Pabedan Police Station has filed charges under Sections 6.B, 10.B and 11/14.D of the Narcotic Drugs Law against Kyaw Win and Tin Win. [Text] [Rangoon MYANMA ALIN in Burmese 15 Jul 81 p 7 BK]

HEROIN SEIZURE IN NAMHKAM--Acting upon information received, a police squad from Namhkam Township people's police force led by station officer U Ni and subinspector U Ye Myint at 1100 yesterday searched the house of Ma Hla Kyi of Pauk Long ward. A penicillin bottle containing heroin was found wrapped in two old handkerchiefs in a suitcase. Maung Tha Htay and Ma Say of Welant village, Mu-se Township were also arrested from the house of Ma Hla Kyi; two penicillin bottles containing heroin, 216 kyats and a bicycle were confiscated. Charges have been filed against Ma Hla Kyi, Maung Tha Htay and Ma Say. [Rangoon MYANMA ALIN in Burmese 16 Jul 81 p 6 BK]

BHAMO-MANDALAY SHIPS ARRESTS--Bhamo, 10 Jul--At 0900 on 10 July, subinspector U Mya Hlaing of Bhamo Township people's police force and a port authority search team composed of U Chan Myint, U Than Sein and Maung Saw Win, with assistance from passenger Ma Khin Tint, conducted body search on passengers Ma Htay and Ma Than Shwe of Tagwin ward in Hopin, Ma Bauk of Hopin and Ma Kin Shwe of Pinweya in Katha Township on passenger ship "Pyithu" which was travelling from Bhamo to Mandalay. Ma Htway and Ma Than Shwe were each found with 1 viss [1 viss = 3.6 lbs] of raw opium in their possession; 50 ticals [1 tical = .036 lb] of raw opium was found on Ma Bauk's body and 35 ticals of raw opium were found on Ma Khin Shwe's body. The four women have been handed over to Bhamo Township people's police force which filed charges against them under Section 6.B [of the Narcotic Drugs Law]. At 0730 on 11 July, a search was conducted on Bhamo-Mandalay passenger ship "Paungde" by a port authority search team composed of U Than Sein, U Tun Kyaing, U Ohn Shwe and U Khin Maung and constable Maung Sein Pe of Sanhkam people's police force. They found a package of raw opium in a food basket of Daw Labya Lu, daughter of U Labya Naw of Kungyangon Township in Rangoon Division, and her son Maung Naw Gya. The two have been handed over to Bhamo Township people's force and charged under Section 6.B. [Text] [Rangoon LOKTHA PYEITHU NEZIN in Burmese 20 Jul 81 p 5]

HEROIN SEIZURE IN LAI-HKA--Acting on information received, a police squad from Lai-Hka in southern Shan State arrested Than Tun, Aik Mann and Aik Tun of No 3 ward, Lai-Hka, as they were reported to have sold heroin on 25 June. Three thousand kyats worth of heroin, which were kept in a bottle, were seized from them. [Rangoon LOKTHA PYEITHU NEZIN in Burmese 7 Jul 81 p 7 BK]

CSO: 5300/4642

INDIA

INDIAN ENTRY INTO INTERNATIONAL DRUG WORLD

Rangoon THE WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY in English 2 Aug 81 p 7

NEW DELHI, 31 July—India is fast burgeoning into a major transit country for narcotics and even a possible source of opium-based narcotics to the drug-dazed Western world.

From a modest transit country in the early 70s and a harmless fun-time destination for soft drug addicts, India has now found a place in Interpol's confidential *Intelligence Bulletin*, a major source of intelligence on world drug-running.

The *Bulletin* says: "Even India is said to be a major exporter of opium-based drugs. It is believed by many that considerable amounts of Indian and Pakistani heroin, through Nepal, are reaching Australia and New Zealand."

This is the first time that Interpol has said that India might be making its mark though in its own humble way in the world's estimated 100-billion-dollar narcotics business.

The Indian entry into the international drug world is very recent. In United Nations International Narcotics Control Board reports of 1979 and 1980 India was not mentioned at all.

The Indian connection started unfolding at the beginning of this year,

when Government sleuths were tipped off that a large consignment of cocaine was due to pass through.

Agents in the Western port city of Bombay stumbled on a consignment of Bolivian handicrafts shipped from La Paz, 2.27 kilogrammes of cocaine valued at six million rupees (about 750,000 US dollars) was recovered. The seizure was the biggest in Asia—almost three times the annual cocaine haul in any single year.

In April an alert customs official in Bombay seized 2.26 kilogrammes of heroin from a Bangkok passenger.

In the Hindu holy city of Benaras (Varanasi), anti-narcotics sleuths seized two kilos of morphine and discovered a morphine lab.

Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's Government is worried over the increasing involvement of India in the international drug racket. To streamline anti-narcotics agencies, the Government recently organized a two-week se-

minar-cumtraining course here.

Mrs Gandhi is introducing a new anti-narcotics bill in the coming session of the Parliament to increase the maximum prison term to 14 years against the existing three years.

The bill aims at ending the confusion that exists in the present statutes in which opium is dealt with separately from morphine, heroin, and cocaine with nothing to cover synthetic narcotics.

The Government also proposes to increase the 50-million-rupee (about 6.25-US-million-dollar) annual budget allocation for the anti-narcotics operation which is considered inadequate.

What lures the smugglers to operate through India is the laxity of laws here. While Iran shoots drug offenders and South Asian countries achieve the same result by court-room death sentence, in India they are let off with just six months or three years of imprisonment and a paltry fine of 1,000 rupees (about 120 US dollars). Over and above the Indian judges let

off smugglers on bail and personal bonds. In many cases they just jump the bail.

"What worries enforcement agencies even more are several potentially explosive trends noticed in recent years... There is an increasing tilt towards more harder and refined drugs... The big catches in 1977-78 were hashish ... This year's seizures are of different dimension; record-breaking hauls of heroin and cocaine, which figure at the top of the killer lists of narcotics," a recent study by the popular Indian news magazine, *India Today*, said.

Official data confirms the trend. In 1978 and 1979 the agencies seized 250 and 220 grammes of heroin respectively. But the catch suddenly jumped to 1.5 kilogrammes in 1980 and the last April haul in Bombay had tossed the score into an altogether new dimension, the magazine said.

Only two kilogrammes of morphine were seized in 1977, but seizures jumped dramatically to almost 13 kilogrammes in 1978 before settling down to six in 1979 and 1980.

CSO: 5300/4961

PAKISTAN

BRIEFS

HEROIN SEIZURE--Customs flying squads in predawn simultaneous raids on two ships docked at the Karachi port yesterday seized foreign currency, scotch whisky and heroin worth over RS6 lakhs yesterday. In a raid conducted by the customs drug enforcement cell on "Chenab," contraband heroin weighing 190 grams valued at about RS3 lakhs was found on the person of a crewmember, Abdul Ghafoor. Incidentally, it was the first ever seizure of heroin from a ship. [GF131822 Karachi DAWN in English 11 Aug 81 p 10]

NARCOTICS, WEAPONS HAUL--As many as 160 antisocial elements, including 25 notorious thieves and burglars, were rounded up during the week by the central division police, who had committed 23 thefts and burglaries. The central division police also recovered 6 revolvers/pistols with 25 live cartridges and 18 knives/daggers from 25 persons and recovered 6 kg of charas, 6 bottles of scotch whisky, opium and mandrix tablets from 17 narcotics peddlers. [Karachi DAWN in English 11 Aug 81 p 10 GF]

CSO: 5300/4639

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THAILAND

THAI PRISON FOR NARCOTICS OFFENDERS DESCRIBED

Paris LE NOUVEL OBSERVATEUR in French 11-17 Jul 81 pp 14-18

[Article by Armand Lerco]

[Text] After spending 1 year in the Thai prison of Mahachai, where he experienced the hell of the "darkrooms" (see our previous issue), Armand Lerco was transferred to the Bund Bud Medical Rehabilitation Center, where he remained for 6 months and was then finally tried. Thus it was only at the end of 1.5 years that he learned of his sentence for heroin possession, of which he was informed when arrested in August 1977. He risked going to prison for 15 years. By bribing the judge, he got off with 3 years--a relatively light sentence: Thai courts, hounded by the American DEA (Drug Enforcement Administration), readily hand down sentences of 60 or even 100 years in prison. He was transferred to the Lard Yao central prison. Heroin traffic, carried on by the guards, flourished there even more than in his two previous jails. This is the sequel to the story of this young 25-year-old Frenchman, today miraculously detoxified

Lard Yao is a vast 4- or 5-square-kilometer camp surrounded by a double electrified wall--with a tower every 100 meters--and a nauseating outside moat. Each tower is manned 24 hours a day by a guard addicted to mekong (Thai whisky). It often happens that a prisoner who gets too close to the wall is shot. Most of the time, the guard is too drunk to aim correctly and someone else gets the bullet.

The prison is divided into dan (sections) of 2,000 prisoners. Each section has a well-defined job. Section 3 is assigned to the kitchen, section 6 to the carpentry shop and section 2 is a holding section for many types: mechanics, extra cooks While awaiting their final transfer, however, they make leather travel bags, hand-sewn foot cushions

In the center of this vast complex, the kingpin is building 5, known as Chiang-Mai: the prison's heroin warehouse. There were kilograms of heroin there. Number 5 was supposed to be the darkroom building, but in reality it was a veritable hotel inhabited by kai hai (highbrows), individual cells, radios, stoves, good chow, servants ... creature comforts.

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Section 4 was an entirely different matter: an isolated building near the garage, which the American Embassy in Bangkok had renovated at its own expense and which it was entitled to inspect. At that time we were right in the middle of Carter's moralizing period: above all, American public opinion should not be aroused by repatriating its totally addicted boys A building without heroin in a Thai prison was a big gamble: we will see how it was lost....

As for the shock of the transition between the "excess of dope" in the Thai section and the "absence of dope" in future building 4, to mitigate a withdrawal period that could be dangerous (the guys were so addicted that they almost croaked when they were taken off the stuff), the Americans had financed a 1-month methadone rescue program for all foreigners of all colors. The guards assigned to this new section were also carefully selected after an investigation of their morals. In general, they were somewhat naive provincial, lower-middle-class sons of tradesmen who spoke English and had become guards to pay for their studies. The building chief, Vichit, had a brilliant past--a captain who had risen from the ranks--as being incorruptible.

Thus everything was perfectly arranged. No dope in the foreign section!

That lasted a certain time, as well as could be expected. When I arrived in section 4, 1 year after it was established, there was dope of course, but not very much and it was expensive. The terrified Thai dealers had to be enticed: they were ruthlessly punished for selling to foreigners. Every time that a Thai got into the section, he was systematically searched: ears, mouth, nose, spaces between the toes, anus. The "blue tunics"--cooperative prisoners who wore blue shirts and shorts and were generally the lackeys of the guards, cops who had been arrested for murder or former noncommissioned army officers--handled the job.

Every time that a foreigner went to the hospital, he was invariably given declassified or expired antibiotics and aspirin, escorted by a guard and a "blue tunic" who never left him for an instant.

Despite this constant surveillance, we organized "Banzai" operations. Singh, a Malaysian, an incredible individual who was both Jesus Christ and the devil at the same time, with his hooked nose, his excessively long hair and his innocent eyes, was our ace in the hole. While the guards ate, he slipped out for about an hour, carrying with him all the combined available cash in the section. For a 10-percent commission, he slipped through the forbidden gates with impunity. He spoke Thai perfectly, was familiar with all of the guards' weaknesses, knew how to flatter them, make them laugh, pat them on the back like brothers, invent the most outrageous explanations to justify his presence.... Singh was the greatest magician, the most ingenious manipulator, a sort of Asian megalomaniac. If the Thais called him Kai, which means both "great" and "clever," if they trusted him and often extended him credit, when he didn't have a cent, it was not without reason....

Always, 1 hour after he left, Singh came back with the heroin. Always. If he was searched, the "blue tunics" found nothing. Once back in the section, behind the building, we grabbed Singh's long carcass by the ankles and the "balm," small containers of heroin, fell miraculously out of his mouth. Only a few Thais were, like him, capable of this feat, which consisted of blocking, by contraction, the containers crammed into the esophagus while still being able to speak.

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Unfortunately the guards, although unable to prove it, were sure that Singh was "scoring." They isolated him in building 2. Singh's isolation heralded a new era. The student guards departed, their contracts expired, replaced by the building chief's trusted men. They were much less honest and the heroin began to turn up in larger amounts as a result....

Until the day that Vichit, the building chief, got mixed up in it himself, for he was naturally less incorruptible than the U.S. Embassy thought. His "transformation" was gradual, planned. He was attracted by the money of the falang (foreigners)--there were veritable fortunes in the section: one prisoner had put aside \$500,000, while another owned an air-cargo company--and he organized his own operation little by little. At first indirectly among Asians, through the Hong Kong Chinese with English passports, who were in our section. At that time we didn't know where the heroin was coming from. Then one day, shortly after the prison warden, a friend of the Americans, died in an automobile accident, Vichit revealed himself. The new warden was a native of the same village as he....

Vichit sent for an old prisoner, Shaffmann, who had been there for 10 years. He was a rich American Jew and a pathological liar, a junkie through and through, and Vichit requested his direct services. Shaff was sent to present Vichit's plan to the foreigners:

1. Vichit's future customers would no longer be subject to compulsory work.
2. The building chief promised to recommend his customers for the annual amnesty in his report.
3. He promised his protection against any guard who was too inquisitive.
4. To avoid excessively large sums of cash being brought in, we were obliged to have an account at the Bank of America, where Vichit's wife worked.

Once a week on Monday, when the doors were opened, Vichit went around the building, yelling: "Checks! Checks!" We gave him our checks, he left to cash them and, 2 hours later, came back to pass out the doses. He dealt only in large amounts.

In the beginning, an ounce (31 grams) of pure heroin was sold for \$500. The business ran very smoothly. A guard, an "addict" himself, who was in charge of the coffee shop, would go to a nearby pharmacy anytime we wanted to buy new syringes in return for a packet of smack (heroin).

Life went on. The foreigners stayed in a stupor 24 hours a day like doped lizards. Dope was the perfect solution. It suppressed hunger and the administration distributed a total of one plate of brown rice, stinking with vermin, a day to everyone.... Even the Thais, who were used to eating anything, wouldn't touch it. At least they were in their own country and their families brought them food on visits.

But as for us, even with money, even at 3 times the outside price, it was impossible to get anything to eat. The guards agreed to buy the dope (big profits), but not food! They were forbidden to bring food into the clink under any circumstances. No one had anything to eat, with the exception of an American army sergeant, who sat in front of a padlocked chest, a veritable safe, all day long. Obsessed with the idea of being attacked and robbed by the jackals that we were, he always had a baseball bat within reach. He received boxes of rations from his captain, who came there especially to bring them to him. The others--all of us--went hungry.

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We were so hungry that most of the foreigners in the section who were not hooked on dope, and who were sometimes even fiercely hostile to it, ultimately ended up sticking a needle in their arms to avoid the pain of hunger after being tortured by sleepless nights as a result of stomach cramps....

This lack of food was part of the building chief's inhuman plan. A scientifically conceived plan.

When I arrived at Lard Yao, we received 2 sardines and 2 cucumbers once or twice a week; we were also permitted to receive staple foods during visits. If we had the money, it was even possible to buy meat and rice at the coffee shop when it was available. After the building chief took over, all of that disappeared. As the height of cynicism, the reason given was that dope could be hidden in the food.

In this situation, it was impossible to do without the heroin, since it was a miraculous remedy for the short term. It depressed the metabolism and thus the need for food. It eliminated physical and mental discomfort and neutralized amoebas. It even had an antibiotic effect. We had no choice ...!

I am not exaggerating when I say that heroin saved my life, as paradoxical as that may seem. I made a deal--a modus vivendi--with heroin. I gave it my future, a future in which I would be so addicted that I could no longer kick the habit--and in exchange, it gave me a tolerable present.

During that 9-month period, which I found both eternally long and incredibly quick at the same time, we were 83 shipwrecked men on the same raft. We were as numb as we could be, unconcerned, recumbent spectators of that indifferent universe which we comprised.... Living corpses, our teeth fell out, but it didn't matter. At first they became loose and then later, they dropped out. I lost 2 in the front and my molars decayed. Other prisoners lost all their teeth Then our hair went, in two stages. First it turned white; we became old men. Then it fell out. Some prisoners lost all their hair....

Every morning at 6 am, when the gates were opened, ghosts went down into the yard on the ground floor, trying to find something to eat. Sometimes in the morning, the Thais from the nearby garage would come in groups, guarded by a "blue tunic," to take showers in our tank, since they had no water. They would bring rice which they would sell to the highest bidder or for a pair of "Wrangler jeans only" or Rayban glasses, to look intelligent.

After the deals were made, those who were unable to get anything to eat, to console themselves, would crouch down and stick a finger into their anuses to remove the stock and gun, which was well wrapped in plastic, and prepared their fixes with a kind of quiet despair. After the injection, they would rewrap everything very tightly and stick it back up into their entrails. At any time a guard interested in either dope or money could turn up suddenly, searching them and using the report as blackmail. In general, the guard was reluctant to search the anus. We were so filthy

We would lie down and then give ourselves another fix 2 hours later. One gram a day, 2 grams a day, sometimes even 3. The days went by, not slowly, not quickly ... they merely passed and we were not even aware of it

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On Mondays, feeling energetic, we would give Vichit our checks. We touched, tasted and discussed the quality of the dope, which was getting worse and worse We tasted it again to be sure We had to shoot up a little more, always more and more, to make up for the missing heroin. The ounces declined in size, finally weighing only 20 grams We had to be careful to keep enough until the following Monday

Suddenly one Monday, the price of the dope doubled. Vichit explained: "The price of heroin has doubled outside. The risks are greater" At the time, we remembered that there was an outside. Vichit himself, an officer, had been searched by the CSD (Crime Suppression Division) when he had entered the prison. We remembered that there was a prison

The day was spent in negotiations. Vichit said: "I'll compromise": 1. The ounces would be sold at his quoted price but would weigh 25 grams; 2. he would "apply pressure" so that we could obtain food during visits; 3. For those who wanted to stop using dope, he would have a doctor issue prescriptions for valium and even methadone

It's true that at that time the U.S. Embassy, which had been occupied with the boat people for some time, was again sending letters to the prison.

From then on, the situation improved, at least for the most part. We had our valium and our methadone ... and in return for payment from the entire section, we again had the regulation rice and sardines. The administration must have been moved by our condition. My ass.

Despite that, however, no one was able to kick the habit. The smack had penetrated us too thoroughly. I myself, using methadone, tried but of course failed. It was impossible.

It is impossible to kick the habit when someone is shooting up in front of you every half-hour, so close that you smell the odor, so insistent, of the melting powder Uncontrollably, you turn your head and your eyes fall on a syringe drawing the blood in and out. A wink ... a call When you refuse, you are told again with exasperating kindness: "Don't be so hard on yourself. If you stay alone, you'll go nuts" The needle's hypnotic presence, a kind of silent fraternity in dope, that constant, piercing call. One day you know you're going to ask for it and they'll give it to you

It's impossible to kick the habit among junkies, that's for sure. But how can you get away from your "former brothers" and become their mortal enemy? In jail, there is no room. At the end of a few days, you give in ... you return to the family. Nevertheless, I managed to shoot up less. Sometimes less than a gram a day, which was already an enormous achievement.

Despite the drawbacks of the building chief's new policy, with the narcotic state of equilibrium into which we had settled, that flight of fancy, that "crystal tower" besieged by time, the situation was more pleasant, more human.

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As the Vietnamese approached, the Thai army toured the prisons to obtain cheap blood. We were not allowed to refuse. Nevertheless, we went up to the milking devices enthusiastically. Subversively! Actually, our blood level of heroin was so high that the Thai army would be addicted before long. How happy we were! The standard line was: "Hot damn, the recruit who gets my blood is going to be treated to an overdose!" And despite the laughs, we were serious, for we were pro-Vietnamese. We knew that everywhere the Vietnamese went, their first concern was to open the gates of the prisons.

Some of us had become fanatically pro-Vietnamese, pledging that when they arrived, "in just a matter of days," they would join the party and would have all those bastard addicts shot! They forgot that they themselves were addicts

During the period of the Thai-Cambodian border skirmishes, some prisoners sentenced to 30 years or more--the Vietnamese were their last hope--would listen to the Bangkok English-language station on the makeshift radios built by the Chinese and sold for high prices.

One night, we were all awakened by hysterical shouts: "The Viets are coming! Two divisions! With armored vehicles! The Thai army has been routed! They are 33 kilometers away!" (Bangkok is about 200 kilometers from the Cambodian border.) It was ecstasy. Everyone was euphoric, hanging on the bars--at Lard Yao the cells are huge cages of crossed bars, without walls, to facilitate surveillance--the volume of the clandestine radios turned up as high as possible, and we all stayed awake, excited, with tourist maps of Thailand spread open. We estimated and calculated: "They'll be here tomorrow morning at 8 am at the latest." (In 1941, it took the Japanese 4 hours to reach Bangkok, take the city and force the Thais to surrender.)

As far as we were concerned, Thailand's fate was sealed. As soon as the gates were opened, each one of us was going to hit the guard of his choice, inventing the most exquisite tortures What pleasure! That lasted such a long time

At 5 am, a terrible disappointment! The Vietnamese were retreating! It was not an invasion They announced that they had only carried out a clean-up operation. The bo doi who had broken through the Thai lines, creating a diplomatic incident about which they were totally unconcerned, were only pursuing a unit of serei Khmers.

The Chinese Government had issued an ultimatum to the Vietnamese and they had retreated immediately. There were shouts of disappointment and rage.

In 2 weeks, the section's morale deteriorated again. The opium harvest had been poor due to the rains and the price of smack had gone up. The Mahachai warden and his deputy warden had just been arrested for corruption. And to top it all off, Thailand was having problems with galloping inflation. The Ministry of Justice was cutting into its 1982 budget--and it was only 1979 As a direct result, the price of dope in jail doubled once again.

To get us into the right mood, Vichit did not come around for 2 weeks. He had taken his vacation ... sure that when he returned, with us sick as dogs from a week without dope, we would be ready to pay any price for it.

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Once he was back, he told us that he had been reprimanded for the state of physical deterioration of the section and ourselves (it was true that everything was a mess and that we were in such weak condition that it was beyond our strength to go to the shower and shave). Vichit was also afraid of the police. He wanted to stop the dope traffic.

Was this a ploy to put more pressure on us? He nevertheless agreed to provide us with ... kapsoun one last time.

Kapsoun is brown sugar (a poorly refined type of heroin), terribly impure, red in color, sold in 25-gram quantities, not very expensive and very toxic.

After heating it to make it melt and filtering it for a long time, it must be shot very quickly while it is warm, otherwise it will congeal and block the syringe. Very dangerous once it is in the syringe, it must be injected quickly while making sure to hit the vein, otherwise an abscess will definitely form. Shortly before I arrived at Lardyao, a black American died from it. The abscess was not treated in time. An Australian had had to have his arm amputated.

But this time there were no mishaps. The abscesses were treated immediately. During this "kapsoun week," the building chief decided to make us work. Rehabilitation through labor. We refused en masse. He had us chained up. From that day on, I wore chains for almost the entire 10 months which I had left to serve. Others like myself wore them Others paid Others worked. The "uncooperative" ones like myself were sent to section 6, the plum of the sections!

During that troubled period, section 6 well expressed the Thai people's acute paranoia concerning the communists. In that paramilitary section, there was not a single gram of heroin, which was extraordinary in Thailand.

Number 6 was composed of 4 bluish-green, military-looking buildings arranged in a square around a huge area of bare land. In the center, the Thai flag was resplendent in the sunshine. From 6:30 in the morning, following the report, until 3:00 in the afternoon, thousands of prisoners devoted themselves to the cult of war, marching over the almost grassless area to the cadence of whistle blasts. In very orderly groups, hundreds and hundreds marched past, singing war chants. They clicked their heels and stopped. Attention! Whistle blast. Fall in! And over and over again ... all day long.

Another group, crouched down farther away, attentively followed a course in guerrilla warfare. The instructor, an army colonel arrested for murder, with his officer cap-- which he was allowed to keep in order to look more authentic--properly cocked on his head to maintain his authority, would yell after each demonstration: "Understood!" And everyone replied: "Understood."

On this drill field, battalions, units and commandos acted out the war against the reds, crawling on their elbows, glued to the ground under the fire of invisible machineguns, getting up again and charging through a veritable obstacle course

The late arrivals, including myself and 3 other foreigners among 300 Thais, were marched off into a free corner by 3 former noncommissioned-officer watchdogs to be put through the most terrible tortures.

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Deprived of dope, feeling sick enough to die, our hearts pounding at 200 beats a minute, chains on our feet, gritting our teeth under a grueling sun, in a semi-comatose state, to the faster and faster cadence of the whistle blasts, we had to perform a whole series of exhausting physical exercises for 6 hours. I thought that my heart would burst, that my bones would break, that my blood vessels would pop and that my head would explode, all at the same time During a series of stretching exercises, my bowels tortured with diarrhea--a withdrawal symptom--suffocating from stomach cramps, I collapsed face down in my own vomit, unconscious. They threw a pail of water on me. Hallucinating as though I were on acid, I opened my eyes to see Andre, a friend. "That's better. Don't you have any methadone?" I swallowed 2 pills which he handed me. "Where are they?" "Brian is in the hospital; he's dislocated his arm. Michel flipped. He went into hysterics and wanted to see the building chief. The guards hit him over the head and took him off somewhere ... the Thais have gone to eat. That bunch of bastards!"

Things were better after a half-hour. The methadone took effect and I was able to walk; the nightmare was over We went to meet the others in the hangar that served as a mess hall. Not having the heart to eat, we found the colonel with the cap and explained the situation to him ... he wasn't as stupid as he looked ... he went to talk to the building chief at 1 pm ... we could have kissed him!

He kept his word. About 1:30 pm, a guard came to get us to take us to see Michel, who was a little messed up, still bleeding from the nose and waiting for us. "I saw the colonel with the cap; they are putting us all in chains together and the building chief has given us 3 days to get better." I couldn't believe my ears

As planned, we spent 3 days doing nothing, but it was forbidden to sit down. We had to march all day long, that is, with each step we had to lift our 3 legs at the same time and put them down at the same time 50 cm ahead. It took us an hour in the morning to get to the mess hall where, wonder of wonders, if we got there early enough, about 11 am, some Thais would be selling rice fried with eggs for 20 bahts. Then we'd make a pass at the kathoi (transsexuals) and accompanied them back, sauntering laboriously, kling-klang, to their building, which was located on the other side of the drill field just opposite our own.

The kathoi shared their building with the lunatics. In Thailand, mental patients who have not committed any offense are imprisoned, often for life, as well as one-legged people and the blind. They spoil the landscape for the tourists.

As for the transsexual offenders, who were actually women since most had had operations, "they" were still confined with the men. There were about 100 of them at Lard Yao. Some very attractive, others less so. In this fringe building of section 6, they were under the medical supervision of a former military doctor who had fallen into disgrace for some unknown reason (he was very secretive) and who gave them their daily injection of hormones. They lived in the luxury of a high-class bordello. Always very excited, they took their little walk to the mess hall every morning about 9:00 am in a group, glittering in silk and rolling their hips with their breasts jutting out to show that they had them, while flashing languid smiles.

In Thailand, and more generally in Asia, transsexuality is quite commonplace whereas, paradoxically, homosexuality is only more or less tolerated. In Bangkok, the number

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of kathoi is enormous. Half of the hostesses of the famous Grace Hotel are transsexuals and a good number of Westerners would be surprised to learn that the puying (prostitute) with whom they have been living for 6 months is actually a man.

If primary homosexuality (exclusively intermale relations) is tolerated outside prison, the same is not true in prison: in section 2, guys who "committed" nocturnal sexual relations were dragged in front of the building chief's desk in the morning and ordered, under threat of being beaten and before a jeering crowd, to have public sex. The pigs And depending on the building chief's mood, following the performance they were beaten and often chained

The kathoi are considered women. They are not harassed, on the contrary. With guards acting as their pimps, they prostitute themselves for a carton of cigarettes a throw (\$4). They sometimes came to see us, the falang, in section 4 on Sundays. We all had our own kathoi sweetheart. It was also good form for them to have a "lover" with light-colored eyes, of whom they were jealously possessive. It was perfect. And we would wait for them on Sunday mornings ... they would bring food.

Our month of rehabilitation over, we were in such good physical shape, off dope, glowing, that the idea of going back to section 4 to find that filthy heroin again made us nervous. We had submitted a request to the deputy warden to remain in this building, but it had been rejected. We were sent back to section 4. Back into hell ...

Building 4's system was still the same. Vichit was still bringing in the dope, but not very much, and selling it to the highest bidder. In this instance, it was Antonio, a young Italian neonazi caught at the airport with a kilogram while he was on a mission: the money from the dope was to have replenished his organization's treasury! His father, a Roman senator, had died shortly after his arrest, leaving him a fortune, which he squandered on smack. Antonio obtained a rare royal pardon and was released.

The atmosphere of the section was more sordid than ever: there was no dope ... a veritable wave of insanity broke loose. It first knocked over one of the pillars of the section, an American known as Henry Kissinger. Kiss was an enormous 45-year-old man weighing 300 pounds and 1.90 meters tall. He was wanted in about 10 countries (for holdups in Saudi Arabia, Iran ... , but in the United States he was wanted for a total of about 13 charges, including 2 murders). One night, he was visited by God the father

Kiss had cash, a lot of cash, and acted as a banker. At 80 percent interest, he lent money to anyone who could pay him back within a reasonable amount of time. Some guys handed him incredible stories. If he liked the sweet talk, if the guy was talented, Kiss would tell him: "Listen, man, I'm sure that you're trying to put one over on me, but you're talented; I've just spent 2 pleasant, enriching hours because of you ... that's certainly worth \$500, and even if you don't intend to pay it back, I swear to you that you will ...!"

Kiss lent money half out of self-interest and half out of sport. Perhaps it was even a form of modest generosity A complex individual, that Kiss: intelligent, cultivated, he had spent long years studying in order to end up at Lard Yao by whatever

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unknown turns, twists and bends. Above all, he was playful. In Vietnam, to be discharged from the service, he had had "Fuck You" tattooed on the edge of his hand so that every time he saluted his superiors, they got his message. He was sent to the brig and discharged at once from the U.S. Forces.

Then one morning, Kissinger went around to his debtors, proclaiming that he had discovered God. "We are all brothers We're all in the same crappy fix You no longer owe me anything" And with tears in his eyes, he embraced us. At first we thought it was a joke. But since he came back every half-hour to tell us his story again, someone told him impatiently: "Yes, you know, the angels came and carved you a pipe." Kiss said: "Angels don't carve pipes," and went off. At 1:00 pm, when the mail came, there was a new revelation: Kiss had received a letter from his embassy. He was going to be released from prison. His request for a pardon had been granted. Knowing his past, someone asked skeptically if he had requested a royal pardon. Kiss said: "Not yet." We were relieved. Kiss had lost his mind and the section rubbed their hands. Practically everyone owed him money. Myself alone, and I was not his largest debtor, I owed him \$1,400

One week after Saint Kissinger, it was Benjamin, an Israeli. Benjamin no longer had a cent and had gotten all the credit possible from the Chinese. Since Kissinger the banker no longer existed, he couldn't buy his two doses of dope, one in the morning and one in the evening, so to get used to doing without it, he decided to kick the habit. He couldn't stand the shock. Endless hallucinations ... his head couldn't take it and he finally lost his mind.

At night, he would see the Syrian army hiding behind bushes in the yard, holding his daughter hostage. Benjamin was in the cell next to mine and I would hear him yelling in Yiddish at the Syrian soldiers all night long. When the gates were opened, he would rush toward the so-called bushes like a madman and would find his father there, with whom he talked for hours, with tears in his eyes.

After Benjamin, it was a German. He had just been put in jail, good and fat. Two weeks later, he was skin and bones. Having rejected the magic solution of heroin, he went hungry. He went crazy. He ate his own excrement and attacked the men, trying to bite them. The guards, skilled in providing therapy, found the solution to his problem. They chained him up and hammered his teeth out.

On the day that I returned, Vichit removed my chains in exchange for my promise to work and, later, to pay him. I was in good health and decided to work to preserve my strength (I was going to be released in 6 months) and not to touch dope (at least not too much, anyway). The creative work consisted of digging a trench in which to bury the prison garbage. Since there had been nothing to eat, and thus no garbage, Vichit turned the hole into a fish pond. And we had to carry the dirt, like ants, in bamboo baskets on our heads The work in the sun was as boring and as exhausting as it could be, but I did it until, fatally, I got hooked again and became an underfed junkie again. I again refused to pay. I was put back in chains and sent off for another round

My last 6 months in prison were definitely the longest No longer able to sleep, I became irritable, dreaming up a typical happy future to make up for the terrible fear of the outside, which characterizes a convict about to be released. At night,

I would make statistical calculations about how fast time had gone by over the last 3 years

It didn't work, dammit. The days dragged by anemically. You ass, you're sick ... "I've got to relax." "Give yourself a fix!" "No, I've got to kick the habit; it will soon be time" I heard a 747 take off from Don Muang, the nearby airport. It passed over our heads in less than 3 minutes. I wondered for the millionth time whether the passengers could see us. Whether we existed. Recognizing the word Lufthansa, I yelled at one of the guys who was slouching in the shade: "Lufthansa, what time?" "11:43 ... 18 kilos." (In his opinion, there were 18 kilograms of heroin on that plane, destined for Frankfurt.) The guy was referring to the DEA statistics published in the BANGKOK POST I said to myself: "Those poor bastards, they'll never get out of here. They'll spend their lives in jail; dope is the only thing that really matters for them. But I'm not stupid. I'm free ... I despise them, all of those bastards" And with that, I went off to give myself a fix.

I got out one day; it was 20 May. I slipped on some pants and a shirt and I was a different man. In the corridor, I ran into Kissinger's angels, who looked tired. Relaxed, I went downstairs, being careful not to display any emotion or impatience, looking the jug over a little to leave a good impression.

A guard arrived from the Clerk of Court's office; I clenched my fists. All of us pretended not to be nervous, despite our quivering voices when we gave our respective false addresses, but no one believed it.

I left like Humphrey Bogart, without turning around. Two days later, I was in Paris. Intoxicated, my brain on fire, and never freer. Unless

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CSO: 5300/4629

THAILAND

USE OF VAPOR INHALANTS ON THE RISE; STUDENT HEROIN USE NOTED

Most Students Use Heroin

Bangkok TAWAN SIAM in Thai 18 Apr 81 pp 1, 16

[Text] Ninety percent of all narcotics addicts are addicted to heroin.

The deputy under-secretary of state of the Ministry of Education on measures to prevent students from becoming addicted to "the death powder," at the opening of an interdepartmental conference studying how to marshall investigative forces to find the sources of narcotics distribution, said that all educational institutions should be on the alert.

At the Ministry of Education on 17 April Mr Somchai Wuthipricha, deputy under-secretary-of-state in the Ministry of Interior (sic), in the status of chairman of the Sub-committee to Prevent Drug Addiction in Places of Education, disclosed the results of the conference, saying that experts from several fields had proposed to solve the problem of expediting the establishment of student narcotics addiction control zones by finding the places where it is spreading, both within and outside the capital, so that forces can be concentrated there especially.

The Education Ministry deputy under-secretary-of-state also disclosed that research conducted by narcotics experts indicates that the reason students become addicted is that they want to try it like their friends. Up to 90 percent of narcotics addicts are heroin users and the vast majority are cigarette smokers. A study of secondary school students who have been suspended from school shows that out of 160 students suspended 24 were suspended because of narcotics addiction.

Mr Somchai said that in its policy of requiring [drug] prevention the Ministry of Education must make administrators of educational institutions understand and must encourage their support and sincere interest in solving this problem. It must be implemented along with operating guidance which the Educational Techniques Department has prepared in model form. In addition the Education Ministry must review its current actions and its methods of promoting the campaign to prevent drug addiction to determine whether they might be a two-edge sword because they might encourage children to try drugs.

Bangkok Addict Population

Bangkok SIAMRAT in Thai 25 May 81 pp 1, 12

[Text] The youth of Bangkok who are addicted to narcotics in the "vapors" class number not less than 100,000 and most of them are between the ages of 10 and 20 and come from families with economic problems and lacking in warmth according to a survey by the Drug Prevention Division of the Drug Prevention and Narcotics Control Board (DPNCB).

The DPNCB report expresses the fear that the number of youthful drug addicts will increase since economic and family relations problems are rapidly increasing in Bangkok.

As a way of correcting this situation, the Drug Prevention Division suggests that the government should foster more sports-related outlets for youth in the city by building athletic fields and recreation centers which would serve as places for youth to congregate. In addition parents and government officials must cooperate in exercising greater supervision.

The "vapors" that these young people become addicted to are mostly gases used in industry.

Popularity of Vapor Inhalants

Bangkok BANMWANG in Thai 4 May 81 pp 1, 16

[Text] Mr Pricha Champarat, Chief of the Drug Prevention Division of the DPNCB, says that the problem of drug addiction is widespread among the population, with many types of drugs involved including gases which vaporize rapidly called "vapors" which can be found everywhere in the markets and in daily industrial use. They include benzine, paint thinner, lacquer, lighter fluid, kerosene, varnish, nail polish, and sprays. At the same time if vapors are introduced into the body regularly in excessive quantity, as by regular inhaling, they are very dangerous.

Currently large numbers of young people are misusing vapors by intentionally inhaling them. This is considered to be a problem for society which must be solved urgently before the poisonous vapors destroy the future of our youth, the strength of the nation.

The effects of inhaling vapors are intoxication, head spinning, blurred vision and hallucinations. If inhaled repeatedly in large quantities they will cause loss of consciousness, coma and possibly death because the vapors, when inhaled, enter the lungs where they enter the blood stream and are carried directly to the brain where they suppress the central nervous system, particularly the respiration control center causing respiration to stop. When ingested in large quantities they also affect the heart making it speed up arrhythmically. Finally it stops beating and death occurs due to heart failure. The danger of regular use is destruction of health, which in the chronic stage causes brain, liver, kidney and other damage.

A survey revealed that a large number of youth in Bangkok are addicted to vapors. For the most part they inhale them in groups. Their average age is between 10 and 20.

Young people can protect themselves by not trying vaporous drugs and not giving in to the urgings of friends. When they have a problem they should seek an outlet by playing sports, reading, or working at hobbies. Parents and guardians should supervise children closely and store any vaporous gases in the home carefully. If they find out that their children are using drugs they should rush them to see a doctor at any hospital in order to start prompt medical treatment.

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CSO: 5300/4599

THAILAND

HILLTRIBE TRAFFICKERS ARRESTED IN SOUTH; MARIHUANA SEIZED IN BANGKOK

Bangkok DAO SIAM in Thai 9 May 81 pp 1, 2

[Text] Two Musur hill tribesmen trafficking in heroin and morphine that they carried from the North to the South have been arrested. Police burst into the house where they were to rendezvous with their customer and arrested them. A search turned up 58 vials of heroin weighing 58 grams and having a value of five million baht which had been hidden in a stuffed bear. Also one gram of morphine was found on the person of one of the two hill tribesmen. The suspects admitted that they had been doing business for a long time with a Malay whose name they would not reveal.

A DAO SIAM reporter in Hat Yai District of Songkhla Province reported that at 1130 hours on 8 May Police Major Manot Kraiwong, Chief Inspector of the Hat Yai Provincial Police Station, along with Police Major Thawat Butsau, an inspector, and a number of other officers entered and searched house number 71/21 Chai-akhan Road in Hat Yai District because they had information that that house was a place where illegal narcotics were bought and sold. The search turned up 58 vials weighing 58 grams of white-powder type of heroin hidden in a stuffed bear. It was valued at five million baht.

Then officers arrested Ulatha Leusew, age 22, of house number 20, village 20, Maesai Canton, Maesai District, Chiang Mai Province and Amu (last name unknown), age 30, of house number 136, village 19, Maikham Canton, Maechan District, Chiang Mai Province, both of whom are Musur hill tribesmen. Officers also discovered one gram of morphine while searching Amu and confiscated it for evidence. Then they took the two suspects and the evidence and turned them over to police 1st Lt Sarawit Phadungchai, the duty officer at the Hat Yai Provincial Police Station, for questioning. During questioning the two suspects admitted that they had brought the heroin from the North to sell in the South to a Malaysian man, whose name they would not reveal, and had done so several times. At the conclusion of the questioning officers jailed the suspects for trial.

Another report said that at 1400 hours police Lt Col Somchai Muangdaeng, Inspector at the Bangkok Noi Metropolitan Police Station, and Police Sargeant Manat Sarasa-at were on duty at the intersection at the foot of Phrapinklao Bridge when a Datsun pickup truck bearing red license plates came across the bridge heading for Charan Sanitwong Road. It was travelling in the right lane while normally small trucks use the left lane. The officers considered that its behavior was suspicious and ordered it to stop. But the driver of the truck sped away. Lt Col Somchai used a radio car to follow the truck and spotted it at the entrance of the land leading to Wat Dongmunlek because it had crashed into the rear end of a rice truck.

Police officers arrested two persons who were riding in the truck: Suradet Sirisawat, age 28, and Kreutsada Watthanawari, age 27. Another person, the owner of the truck, got away. When officers looked in the truck which was covered with canvas they discovered 389 kilograms of marihuana cigarettes worth 1,167,000 baht. Under questioning the suspects admitted that they had brought it from Sakon Nakhon Province. All of the accused reside in Sakon Nakhon Province.

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CSO: 5300/4599

THAILAND

MARIHUANA ENROUTE SOUTH SEIZED

Bangkok BAN MUANG in Thai 9 May 81 p 16

[Text] At 1500 hours on 8 May as police 2nd Lt Wirasak Thanupun, in a radio-controlled patrol and special operations car, patrolled along Charan Sanitwong Road approaching the area in front of the Southern bus terminal he observed three men in a brand new pick up truck with a red license plate number 00366 and covered with a tarpaulen who were acting suspiciously so he ordered them to halt for a search. But the truck would not stop and sped away but only for 50 meters where it crashed into the rear end of a ten-wheeled truck. The occupants of the pick up split up and ran away but officers chased and caught two of them: Suradet Sirisawat, age 25 of house number 500, village 6, That Cheungchum Canton, Muang District, Sakon Nakhon Province, and Kreutsada Rattananawikun, age 25 from Korat. Meanwhile the pick up was searched and was found to be full of marihuana packed in plastic bags, weighing a total of 389 kilograms, and valued at nearly four million baht.

Under interrogation Suradet stated that he works as a painter in Sakon Nakhon but that the driver named Sak (last name unknown), who got away, had been hired to drive the truck into Bangkok. He knew neither the route nor what was in the truck. Then he was arrested as reported above.

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CSO: 5300/4559

THAILAND

BRIEFS

HEROIN SEIZED IN RAID--Bangkok, Thailand, July 26 (AP)--Anti-narcotics police attacked a gang of heroin smugglers near the Thailand-Burma border Friday and seized 14 kilograms (30.8 pounds) of highly refined heroin, a police spokesman said Sunday. He said three policemen were wounded in the 10-minute clash with three heroin smugglers, after the smugglers had crossed into Thailand's Chiang Rai Province, 450 miles (720 kilometers) north of here. Police said one Burmese national was arrested and charged with heroin trafficking, but two others managed to flee into the jungle after the fighting. The heroin was estimated to be worth 150,000 U.S. dollars, but could fetch 10 times that amount in major U.S. cities, police said. Police said the heroin was produced in the Golden Triangle, where the borders of Thailand, Burma and Laos meet. [Text] [Taipei THE CHINA POST in English 28 Jul 81 p 6]

CSO: 5300/4961

VIETNAM

CAN THO DRUG TRAFFICKERS SENTENCED

Hanoi HANOI MOI in Vietnamese 24 Jun 81 p 4

[Text] The People's Court of Can Tho City, Hau Giang Province recently tried Nguyen Phu Huu and Nguyen Van Giau for the possession of and trafficking in pornographic and reactionary cultural items and for the sale and use of heroin.

The activities of Huu and Giau were discovered by the people who assisted the responsible agencies in arresting them with the evidence. Huu and Giau acknowledged all their crimes before the court and were each sentenced to 24 months in prison and confiscation of all the evidence and means [related to their criminal activities].

CSO: 5300/4640

JAMAICA

BRIEFS

RAID ON ILLEGAL AIRSTRIP--Police in a raid on an illegal airstrip at Hill Run district, in St. Catherine on Friday seized uncustomed goods along with ten pounds of ganja, and arrested and charged fifteen persons. Police Information Centre reported that the airstrip, complete with a makeshift control tower for landing aircraft was raided at about 11 a.m. by the police in St. Catherine. They seized two aircraft transceivers, two VHF radios, ten CB radios, four "walkie-talkies", 24 signal lamps for landing aircraft, 300 batteries for the lamps, four aircraft tyres, 13 fuel pumps, a scale believed to be used for weighing ganja, a television set, and a pair of binoculars. Those arrested including two women, are being held in custody to appear in court at Spanish Town on Tuesday to face charges of breaches of the Customs Act and possession of ganja. They are: Donovan Perrier, 23, Roy Samuels, 44; Joseph McLean, 65, Alphonso Green, 31; Gerald Hutchinson, 21; Henry Rowe, 49; Sylvester Bartley, 19; Glenford Anderson, 24; Danny Morrison, 32; Terrence Serrigan, 20; John Walters, 17; Leroy Gordon, 22, and Denzil Bartley, 20. The women are May Bingham, 56, and Cynthia Senior, 42. All 15 were held at the airstrip. [Text] [Kingston THE SUNDAY GLEANER in English 19 Jul 81 p 2]

CSO: 5300/7576

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

BRIEFS

MARIHUANA CONFISCATION--Police seized an estimated \$1 million worth of compressed marijuana in raids carried out at Belmont and Morvant, early yesterday. Two men and a woman were held for questioning in connection with the seizure, which Police said was the result of "Operation FAN". Maurice Brown's picture shows members of the Flying Squad sifting through the confiscated marijuana at Police Barracks in St. James. [Photo not reproduced] Meanwhile three suitcases, containing marijuana with an estimated street value of \$1.5 million, were seized by officers of the Preventive Branch of the Customs and Excise Division during the past week, at Piarco International Airport. Officials of the division reported however, that no one was held in connection with the seizure. The marijuana, described as compressed and cured, was seized in the baggage claim area of the airport. Officials said the shipment originated at Kingston, Jamaica. Surveillance of all points of entry into the country is continuing, in attempts to halt the illegal importation of marijuana, according to officials. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 24 Jul 81 p 3]

CSO: 5300/7576

IRAN

BRIEFS

ARMED CLASH OVER OPIUM--During an armed clash with three notorious smugglers last night, personnel from the Mashhad Antinarcotics Headquarters, in cooperation with the Islamic Revolution Committee of Torbat-e Jam, seized 143.8 kg of opium which had been concealed in 20 bags. The smugglers were arrested as they were travelling from Tayyebat to Mashhad in three vehicles. One of the smugglers took advantage of the darkness and fled. This morning the officers of the antinarcotics headquarters, in cooperation with the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps of Mashhad, seized 4.6 kilograms of heroin and 7.4 kilograms of opium from an Afghan smuggler. The Afghan national was handed over to the judicial authorities. [LD130407 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 12 Aug 81]

HEROIN, HASHISH SEIZED--During a series of daring operations over the past week, 400 kg of pure heroin and 1,800 kg of hashish were seized and impounded by the antinarcotics police officers. These operations came in the wake of the discovery of 716 kg of heroin the week before. [Excerpts] [LD050202 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1000 GMT 4 Aug 81]

DRUGS SEIZED--PARS News Agency reports that according to an announcement by the Public Relations Office of the Islamic Republic of Iran's state gendarmerie, the gendarmerie guards at Nosratabad in Zahedan seized 72 kilograms of heroin, 700 grams of hashish and one 45 calibre firearm 2 days ago. These were seized from a jeep; the driver was arrested and handed over to the authorities. Another report says that members of the Corps of Revolution Guards in Torbat-e Heydariyeh, while searching a car this morning, seized 14 kilograms of opium. [Text] [LD090254 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 8 Aug 81]

CSO: 5300/5589

ISRAEL

BRIEFS

HASHISH SEIZURE--The Gaza District Police managed to seize 733 soles of hashish weighing 173 kg in a week-long operation that ended on 9 August. The hashish arrived by sea, apparently from Lebanon. Khan Yunus and Rafah fishermen are suspected of having brought in the drug. The police believe that this is one of the largest seizures of hashish in Israel in the last few years. [Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1430 GMT 9 Aug 81 TA]

HASHISH SEIZURE IN GAZA--The largest ever quantity of hashish was discovered in the south this week, in the Gaza Strip. The captured hashish is worth 10 million shekels and a total of about 750 soles. In the course of the investigation, the police arrested more than 40 drug dealers. Our correspondent says that, because of this discovery, shortage of the drug is being felt among its suppliers and the prices have increased. [TA150547 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1830 GMT 15 Aug 81 TA]

CSO: 5300/4753

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

STRICTER MEASURES AGAINST DRUG DEALERS

Munich BAYERNKURIER in German 27 Jun 81 pp 5, 6

[Article by Klaus Hartmann, member of the FRG Bundestag, chairman of the GSU national committee's study group "Social and Society-Policies, Culture and Research," and deputy chairman of the Bundestag Committee for Youth, Family and Health: "Drug Legislation: Measures Against Drugs."]

[Text] On 26 May 1981 the German Bundestag unanimously adopted a law on the reform of drug legislation. Under it, the control of the legal narcotics traffic is tightened; as compared with the hitherto prevailing drug law, the control is extended over 27 additional substances and about 55 preparations, according to the 1971 international addictive substances agreement. Penalties for criminal violation of drug laws were increased. But in this connection special attention was paid to the affairs of addicted minor to middle-of-road drug law violators, in whose cases social-therapeutic rehabilitation assumes primary importance.

The initiative for these legislative measures emanated from the CDU/CSU which, as early as October, 1979, was the first parliamentary party to submit to the Bundestag a legislative proposal for the alteration of the drug laws. The present legislative proposal for the reform of drug legislation was newly submitted by the SPD/FDP coalition in November, 1980. Since this is a law that requires agreement, the matter called for a compromise among the parties. This was prepared in the proper consulting legislative committee and was transferred to the underwriting Committee for Youth, Family and Health.

Drug Abuse and addiction have in the past increased dramatically in our country: 623 drug deaths in 1979, still 494 in 1980, 50,000 drug cases in 1980 with 6,000 first offenders and 10,000 repeat offenders in drug criminality, an estimated number of 6,000 to 90,000 addicts--this is the reality of the drug scene. Abuse and addiction are a scourge with frightening consequences: social decline, immeasurable personal suffering up to the final excruciating death, relatives and friends who suffer along, not to speak of the considerable economic damages for society as a whole.

By present judgment, no decisive change for the better was recognizable in 1979/80 either. The hard core of heroin addicts still appears to be growing, a shift towards younger age groups as first users is still noticeable, and, more frequently

than before, they start directly with heroin. The "scene" has become established in a dangerous manner. There are no supply problems with any addictive substances. The price of heroin has remained unchanged; in some areas it has even dropped. The fact of a still relatively high concentration of heroin and an adequate supply covering the entire spectrum of the drugs in demand, has led to a worrisome illusionary peace of mind in the scene. Drugs are available even in small towns and villages. The costs of daily drug doses can continue to be covered by shop lifting, dealing, prostitution and bank loans. Pharmacy burglaries, prescription forgery and other offenses in the area of procurement criminality have clearly diminished. This is not a result of intensive control but, on the contrary, a sign of failure to curb the drug market and its supply.

The CDU/CSU succeeded in supplementing the new drug law with considerable, very substantive improvements, as compared with the present legal status and also with the law which last year got stuck in the Bundesrat.

1. The penalty for evidence of criminal acts in the area of drug laws was increased to 4 years. This is directed first of all at those culprits who, without being addicted themselves, take advantage of the addiction of others. For especially severe cases, the maximum penalty was increased from 10 to 15 years.

2. In the case of drug addicted law violators who have been sentenced to no more than 2 years imprisonment, the sentence can be set aside for up to 2 years if the convicted is under treatment aimed at his rehabilitation or agrees to submit to such treatment, and its beginning is guaranteed. The therapy time can be counted as part of the sentence.

In these special regulations, the principle finds expression that under certain preconditions of therapy, indictment and implementation of penalty must not stand in each other's way. What matters is to break through the vicious circle of addiction, criminal action, prosecution, and implementation of penalty back into the scene, and to give those drug addicts who are able and willing to undergo therapy a chance for rehabilitation into society.

3. In the future, the court can reduce the sentence or forget about it altogether if the culprit voluntarily turns state evidence so that the crime can be solved beyond his own contribution to it, or grave criminal acts in the area of drug criminality can still be prevented ("minor chief witness regulation").

These new stipulations, which bear the CDU/CSU imprint, amount to a renunciation of the misleading slogan "therapy instead of sentence." In science also, this placating confrontation was labeled as an inappropriate narrowing of the problem. One does not do justice to the complexity of the problems if the drug addict is classified either as sick or as criminal. Therapy and punishment must be flexibly usable tools in the fight against drug abuse. But it must be weighted in favor of therapy in so far as measures of penal prosecution and implementation of sentences must not be allowed to stand in the way of promising therapy.

Although the new drug law contains considerable improvements, those who believe that it can offer patent medicines must be cautioned. True, the law wants to reduce

the availability of drugs, scare people off by threatening increased sentences, and enhance the possibilities for social-therapeutic rehabilitation. But this is not enough; rather, far-reaching preventive measures in the area of education, culture and scientific and social policies need to be introduced. The drug problem can be solved through halting drug supplies or halting utilization of such supplies, as well as through combating drug demand and its individual motivation.

Whence Drug Susceptibility?

The motto "War on Drugs" entails an obligation to consider the question what drives a young person to use mind-altering drugs? What are the factors in state, society the professional world, school and family which promote drug susceptibility? What are the defects in our system of order and values? Where do the structures no longer fit and how can we repair them?

There never has been and there never will be a congruity between young people's expectations and reality. Whoever makes promises to the youth that cannot be realized is an irresponsible seducer. But how can we prevent young people from foundering on reality and taking refuge in the illusionary world of hallucinations, in the void of total escape? These are questions for every responsible citizen, not just for the politicians. We must all seek ways of prevention and immunization. Part of this is more intensive research into the causes of drug problems and intensified educational work. The federal government's action program and also the drug-combating program of the Laender must in this respect be supplemented and implemented.

The Bavarian state government's drug combating program of 30 September 1980 is exemplary in this respect.

9011
CSO: 5300/2385

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

DRUGS SMUGGLED BY UNWITTING TOURISTS

West Berlin DER TAGESSPIEGEL in German 26 Jun 81 p 20

[Article by ddp: "Tourists as Drug Smugglers: Heroin Hidden in the Car of an Unsuspecting Driver."]

[Text] Bonn. More and more often, unsuspecting drivers are involved in illegal drug traffic. At the beginning of vacation time, Federal Minister Baum warned vacationers on Thursday in Bonn not to let themselves be misused as courier services by unscrupulous dealers who use cunning tricks. He pointed out especially that in many Southeast Asian, Near East, North African, and South American countries, draconic punishments under "hardly imaginable imprisonment conditions" await the drug owner or smuggler. The accused is frequently unable to make his unawareness credible.

On the basis of knowledge acquired by the Federal Criminal Bureau and to German representations abroad, Baum described some tricks used with particular frequency. For instance, the luggage, unnoticed by the tourist, is "enriched" with drugs for the return trip. Most frequently, the dealers use the car parked by the vacationers as means of transportation. The tourists are invited to bring the car to a nearby parking lot, fill it up, or even have the oil changed or vital repairs taken care of either free of charge or very cheaply. This can present an opportunity to hide the drugs in the car without difficulty.

How risky such "favorable offers" can be for vacationers was shown in a case last summer. In the car of German tourists who had entered Greece from Turkey, 60 grams of heroin were found. Although the driver expressed the suspicion that the drugs were hidden in the car when he stopped at a repair place in Turkey, he was sentenced to 12 years imprisonment.

According to Baum, younger tourists in particular try to finance their vacation in the Near East or in North Africa by selling their car. Seemingly helpful intermediaries, often filling station owners, offer their services. In the course of the negotiations the drugs are hidden in the car, then the sale allegedly does not work out and the returning tourist becomes, quite unawares, a drug carrier. Camouflaged drug smuggling is not infrequently concealed behind a request to take letters, small packages, or other small pieces of luggage along on the return trip to the FRG, as "a favor" or for a small remuneration.

Sometimes, tourists are also recruited by drug dealers directly as couriers, with an offer of "good pay." In doing this the dealers often use a dirty trick. They themselves notify the police about the deal to prove their apparent readiness to cooperate. In reality, they want to cash in on the valuable "capture reward" at a loss of qualitatively inferior stuff. Baum advised tourists who come into contact with dealers in such a manner, or who have a suspicion of this kind, to ask German embassies and consulates to help them.

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CSO: 5300/2385

GREECE

HASHISH CACHE DISCOVERED IN RHODES

Athens TA NEA in Greek 16 Jun 81 pp 1, 4

[Article by Giorgos Zakhariadis]

[Text] Rhodes--A deep mystery continues to spread over the case involving the discovery of about 3 tons of hashish, hidden within inner tubes, in a desolate area on the island of Rhodes. And although the island's port authorities are continuing their intensive investigations to get to the bottom of this serious affair, they are optimistic that they "will clear up this case," as the harbor master of Rhodes stated to TA NEA.

At the same time, the discovery of a foreign pleasure-boat which had run aground 2.5 miles away from the point where the inner tubes were found is giving rise to even more questions, since neither any crew member nor any other passenger was found on this boat. In any case, four Swedes have been arrested, two men and two women who were sunbathing a few meters away from the cache containing the 3 tons of hashish.

The disclosure of this case began at midday last Saturday, when the fisherman Osman Angas telephoned the Central Port Authority of Rhodes and reported that an inner tube containing hashish had been found along the desolate coast of Kattavia, 110 kilometers from the town.

Immediately the deputy harbor master, Lieutenant Ioan. Fournarakis, and Chief Warrant Officer Aim. Makodos went to this area. After taking delivery of the inner tube with the hashish, the two officers boarded a boat and began to search the seashore.

At a distance of 3 miles they spotted a makeshift tent on the coastal rocks. They took off their uniforms and pretended to be fishermen, and at that time they saw four persons sunbathing nearby.

The deputy harbor master went towards the tent, while the warrant officer stopped to keep an eye on the foreigners, because they considered them suspects. When Fournarakis pulled aside the blanket of the makeshift tent, he was startled to find 77 inner tubes, which when weighed later were found to have contained pure hashish valued at around 3 billion drachmas.

Immediately the four foreigners were regarded as suspects and were arrested. And two pick-ups were called for, which came and took delivery of the hashish so as to transport it to the Rhodes Port Authority, where it is being guarded.

Foreign Gang

There is no doubt that this affair is the work of an international gang of narcotics merchants, but it is still unknown whether this refuge in a deserted area of Kattavia was a regular hangout or was used incidentally for the first time. At the same time, the role of the pleasure-boat is being examined--a phantom which was found smashed up on the rocks a short distance away from the cache. The only extenuating circumstance for the pleasure-boat is the fact that it is a small boat which would have trouble transporting such a large quantity of hashish. There are basically two interpretations of these circumstances:

First: A smugglers' boat which was loaded with the inner tubes either was spotted or suffered mechanical failure, or even was advised by the boss of the operation to approach this desolate coast, where it unloaded the merchandise onto the shore by means of small boats. Next, they hid it in the makeshift tent with the idea of another smugglers' boat showing up to take delivery of the inner tubes. This work was surely done at night, and it seems that during the unloading one inner tube fell into the sea and was found later by the fisherman.

Second: The smugglers were using this hideout on a regular basis. And later another boat would show up and take delivery of the inner tubes. In this case, it is possible that there was also a local agent who would see to the safe unloading and loading of the merchandise.

Optimism

"We are making progress, and we hope that finally we will be able to clear up this case," stated the chief harbormaster of Rhodes, Lieutenant Commander Kostas Khartofylis, to TA NEA late in the evening. Throughout the day, he had conducted searches in the area where the 3 tons of hashish were found. Khartofylis added that it is almost certain that the pleasure-boat which was found smashed up on the rocks was connected with the inner tubes.

According to journalists' reports, this pleasure-boat is the "Lena," sailing under the Greek flag, with a Piraeus ship's register, a capacity of 2,780 tons, 30 register tons, and a length of 13 meters. It was leased out from Glyfada by two foreigners, but it was supposed to have returned on 6 June. Since then the boat has been sought, and the last time it was spotted was on 25 May at Karpathos, where it remained only 1 hour for reprovisioning. And the two people on board stated that its destination was Rhodes, but it never arrived at the port of this island.

From the investigations which were made it was found that the inner tubes had as a protective cover a door belonging to the pleasure-boat "Lena." Also found nearby was an outboard motor boat, and it was discovered that this too belongs to the Lena. In light of this, the port authorities do not have any

doubts that the hashish was transported by this pleasure-boat, but it remains unknown whether the smugglers deliberately ran it onto the rocks or whether this running aground happened because of clumsy maneuvering. Also uncertain is whether the merchandise was removed by the outboard motor boat so that later the same people or others who were participating in this fraud could show up and take delivery of it.

Furthermore it was learned that on Saturday morning two foreigners had arrived on foot at the only coffee shop which is open in the area, a few kilometers from the point where the boat had run aground, and that these had asked for food. And in fact, as was testified, they had a great deal of money with them, and on leaving they asked the coffee-house keeper where the city of Rhodes was. The authorities believe that these two people are the wanted smugglers.

Those Arrested

Also four Swedes are being detained in connection with this case. These are the people the port officers found sunbathing at a distance of about 30 meters from the cache. When interrogated, they replied that they had not come close to the cache and they did not know what was there. Another characteristic fact is that the approach by car to the point where the four Swedes were found is very difficult.

The four Swedes had arrived there by Jeep. Now they are being detained at the Port Authority and are to be brought before the public prosecutor today, Tuesday. The people in question are (Stefan Siomblon), 24 years old, (Ikvar Eriskson), 28 years old, (Giette Andersen), 20 years old, and (Ourlika Rouket), 23 years old. All work as group guides in Rhodes on behalf of the Scandinavian tourist office "Spis."

12114

CSO: 5300/5585

TURKEY

BRIEFS

32 KILOS OF HEROIN SEIZED--Gaziantep, (THA)--Acting on a tip, police in Gaziantep seized 32.630 kilos of heroin worth 150 million lira placed in secret compartments in a truck. Upon receiving a warning that heroin would be sent out of the country through Syria prior to the holiday, narcotics office teams placed Diyarbakir-born Sevket Soytaş under surveillance. Determining that Sevket Soytaş had arrived in Gaziantep with his truck--licence 21 DC 999--police conducted a search and found 32.630 kilos of heroin in 64 bags in a secret compartment of the gasoline tank.
[Text] [Istanbul MILLIYET in Turkish 4 Aug 81 p 3]

CSO: 5300/5590

END